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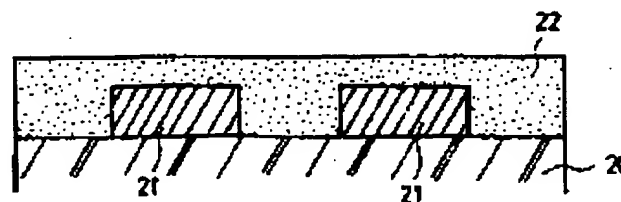
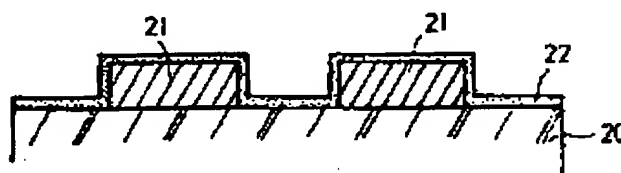
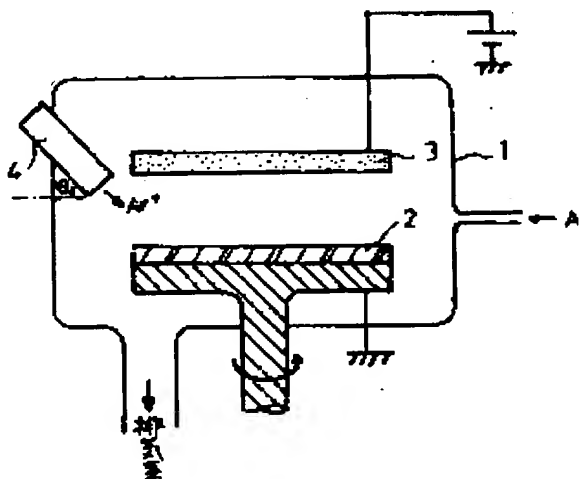
(74) Representative:

(54) FORMATION OF THIN FILM

(57) Abstract:

PURPOSE: To flatten and smooth the surface of a deposited film in a stabilized manner by a method wherein a rotating sample and either of a deposition film material or an ion gun are arranged facing each other, the other party is arranged facing the surface of the sample from the side face of either of them, and simultaneously with the deposition of a thin film, a thin film is coated while it is coated on the surface of the raised part of the sample is being removed by an ion.

CONSTITUTION: A PSG substrate target 3 is arranged facing the front surface of the sample substrate 2 which rotates at several hundreds revolution per minute in a reaction chamber 1 is arranged facing the front surface of the sample substrate 2, an ion gun 4 is arranged facing the surface of the sample substrate on the lateral side of the target 3, and the ion gun 4 is maintained at the angle of 45° to 70° to the sample substrate surface. The sample substrate 2 consists of an aluminum wiring layer 21 provided on a silicon substrate 20, and when a PSG film 22 is coated on said PSG film 22 is thinly coated by and by on a wiring layer 21 by the repetition of coating by sputtering and the etching using the ion gun, and also the PSG film 22 is thickly coated on the substrate 20 located at the recessed part. This is because an etching is performed intensively on the raised part by the ion gun, the wiring layer 21 is buried and the PSG film having flat surface can be obtained.



HIGH CAPACITY CATHODES FOR LITHIUM-AIR BATTERIES

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Lithium-air batteries consist of lithium anodes electrochemically coupled to atmospheric oxygen through an air cathode. Oxygen gas introduced into the battery through the air cathode is essentially an unlimited cathode reactant source. Theoretically with oxygen as an unlimited cathode reactant, the capacity of the battery is limited by the Li anode. The theoretical specific energy of the Li-oxygen cell with 3 V is 5.4 kWh/kg, and that excluding oxygen is 11.5 kWh/kg, the highest for a metal air battery (1). In addition to this very high specific energy, the Li air battery offers a flat discharge voltage profile, environmental friendliness and long storage life. A cell design utilizing a non-aqueous electrolyte alleviates the parasitic corrosion reactions of the Li anode that plagued past lithium-air batteries based on alkali aqueous electrolytes. The non-aqueous electrolyte-based cell design also overcomes safety concerns of the Li-air system.

In this paper we report the results of our efforts to increase the practical energy density of the Li-air battery through improved air cathode structures. Our air cathodes structures are carbon based double-sided electrodes (Figure 1). These electrodes consist of two carbon layers sandwiched around a current collector, and then covered with a PTFE film. The carbon layers contain the metal catalysts. Metal catalysts incorporated into the carbon electrode enhance the oxygen reduction kinetics and increase the specific capacity of the cathode. Several cathodes were constructed with different metal catalysts such as: manganese, cobalt, ruthenium, platinum, silver, and a cobalt manganese mixture. High surface area carbon powder was also used in these cathodes. The PTFE film acts as an atmospheric water barrier. Preventing water from entering the battery increases safety and performance. The air cathodes were tested using a pouch cell design. The lithium metal anode, separator, electrolyte, and carbon air cathodes are sealed inside the metallized plastic envelope. The air cathode was 10 cm² in area while the anode and separator were slightly larger. The electrolyte was 1M LiPF₆ in 1:1:1 EC/DEC/DMC, and the separator was Setela. The cells were discharged at constant current at 22 °C in oxygen gas roughly at 1 atm. The current was 1 mA (current density equal to 0.1 mA/cm²). Cathodes were analyzed by SEM to elucidate structure and catalyst distribution.

The best performing air cathodes were the Mn catalyzed cathodes followed by the Co catalyzed cathodes. The Mn catalyzed cell had a capacity of 91 mAh with a relatively flat discharge profile (Figure 3). Discharging further to 1.5 volts resulted in 100 mAh total capacity. The corresponding energy yield is 246 mWh. With 0.028 grams of carbon impregnated into the air cathode current collector, the specific capacity is 3137 mAh/g carbon. This is more than double the highest capacity reported in literature for carbon (2,3). The carbon electrodes containing the Co catalyst were the second best performing air with a specific capacity of 2414 mAh/g of carbon. The specific capacities of the two electrodes (Mn

and Co respectively) are about 250% and 150% greater than the highest specific capacities reported in literature.

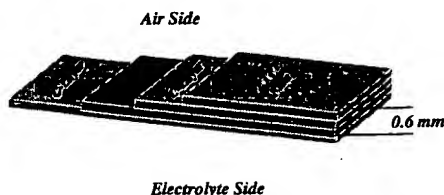


Figure 1. Diagram of the layered carbon electrode used as an air cathode in lithium air cells. The PTFE is a Teflon membrane to repel water from the atmosphere. The "C" is the carbon layer that contains the metal catalysts. Nickel mesh is the current collector.

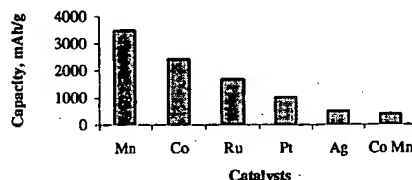


Figure 2 The specific capacities of the air cathode in pouch cells utilizing the various catalysts. The discharge current was 1.0 mA that corresponds to 0.1 mA/cm².

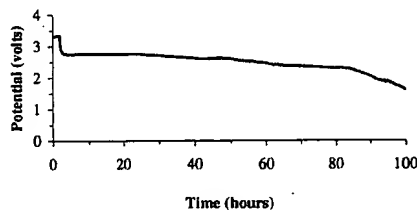


Figure 3 Discharge profile of Mn catalyzed cathode at 0.1 mA/cm² shown with an initial open circuit rest of two hours.

Yardney's experience and technologies in the zinc-air and aluminum-air power sources were adopted in the design of the new air cathode structure and the Li air-cell. These batteries have the potential to power portable electronic equipment, unmanned aerial vehicles, camping equipment, or any equipment where air is present.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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